



***de maximis, inc.***

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August 15, 2008

**VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL**

Ms. Alice Yeh  
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 15 – July 2008  
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)  
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

**de maximis, inc.** is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

**(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.**

**Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On July 14 and 15, CPG and EPA held a meeting to transfer the LPR/Newark Bay modeling program to the CPG modeling team.

**Correspondence**

- On July 7, CPG submitted revised response to comments on the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) QAPP/FSP to EPA.
- On July 11, CPG submitted a revised RI/FS Project schedule to EPA.

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- On July 15, CPG submitted the July monthly progress report to EPA.
- On July 18, CPG submitted ENSR's Health and Safety Plan Addendum to EPA.
- On July 24, CPG submitted revised LRC QAPP Worksheets 32 and 33 to EPA.
- On July 24, the CPG uploaded the response to EPA comments on the LRC QAPP/FSP, the final LRC QAPP/FSP, and the Health and Safety Plan Addendum to the Premis Database.
- On July 24, EPA notified the CPG that the LRC QAPP/FSP was approved.
- On July 28, CPG submitted laboratory Performance Evaluation sample certificates of analysis to EPA for labs participating in the LRC Program.
- On July 30, CPG submitted five (5) minor field modification forms and revisions to LRC QAPP Worksheets 12, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28 and 30.

### **Work**

- CPG initiated the LRC field work on July 21, 2008 including Health and Safety Training, reconnaissance of the upper River and Tributaries and mobilization of equipment to the Rutherford Field Facility. Tide gauges were installed and sediment probing conducted the week of July 28. Two sediment cores were collected and processed for shipment to participating laboratories.
- Laboratory audits for the LRC participating labs were conducted prior to field work initiation.
- CPG is completing the draft Feasibility Study Work Plan for submission to EPA in early August.
- CPG is continuing work on the sediment stability evaluation and integration of the 2007 Bathymetry Survey data.
- CPG is working to update the conceptual site model based upon a revised sediment stability analysis using the most recent bathymetry data collected in the LPRSA as well as existing river gage and mooring data.
- CPG initiated work on the drafting of the Water Column Monitoring (WCM) QAPP.
- In addition to attendance at the Model Transfer Meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, ENSR transferred files and data to the members of the modeling team (i.e., Deltares and Moffatt & Nichol). A web-based meeting was held to orient the modeling team to the project and the LPRSA.

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**(b) Results of Sampling and Tests**

- There are no results from this reporting period.

**(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion**

- CPG will continue the LRC field work.
- CPG will continue work on the WCM QAPP.
- CPG anticipates meetings with EPA and Partner Agencies (PA) to review and discuss unscoped tasks in FSP Volume 1 including water column, mudflat, groundwater, and pore water sampling.
- CPG anticipates meeting with EPA and PA to review and discuss unscoped tasks in FSP 2 following receipt of FSP 2 comments from EPA.
- CPG will continue work to review and evaluate the Conceptual Site Model as new data are generated in the LPR study area.

**(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.**

CPG is not in receipt of EPA's draft FSP 2 response to comments. As a result the CPG is unable to address the stakeholders' comments and schedule an FSP scoping meeting to discuss them. It is CPG's understanding that FSP 2 sampling program cannot be developed and implemented until a stakeholder scoping meeting is conducted.

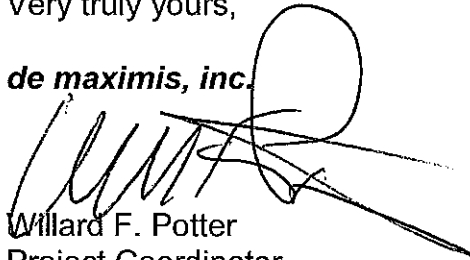
Additionally, the LPR/Newark Bay Sediment Transport Model integrated with SEDZL-J was not transferred to the CPG as anticipated during the reporting period. EPA's modeling contractor did not provide a specific delivery date to the CPG at the July 14/15 Transfer Meeting but indicated that transfer of the calibrated model would be within a couple of months. Delays in the CPG's implementation of the remaining LPR/Newark Bay Modeling Work Plan tasks will result.

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If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

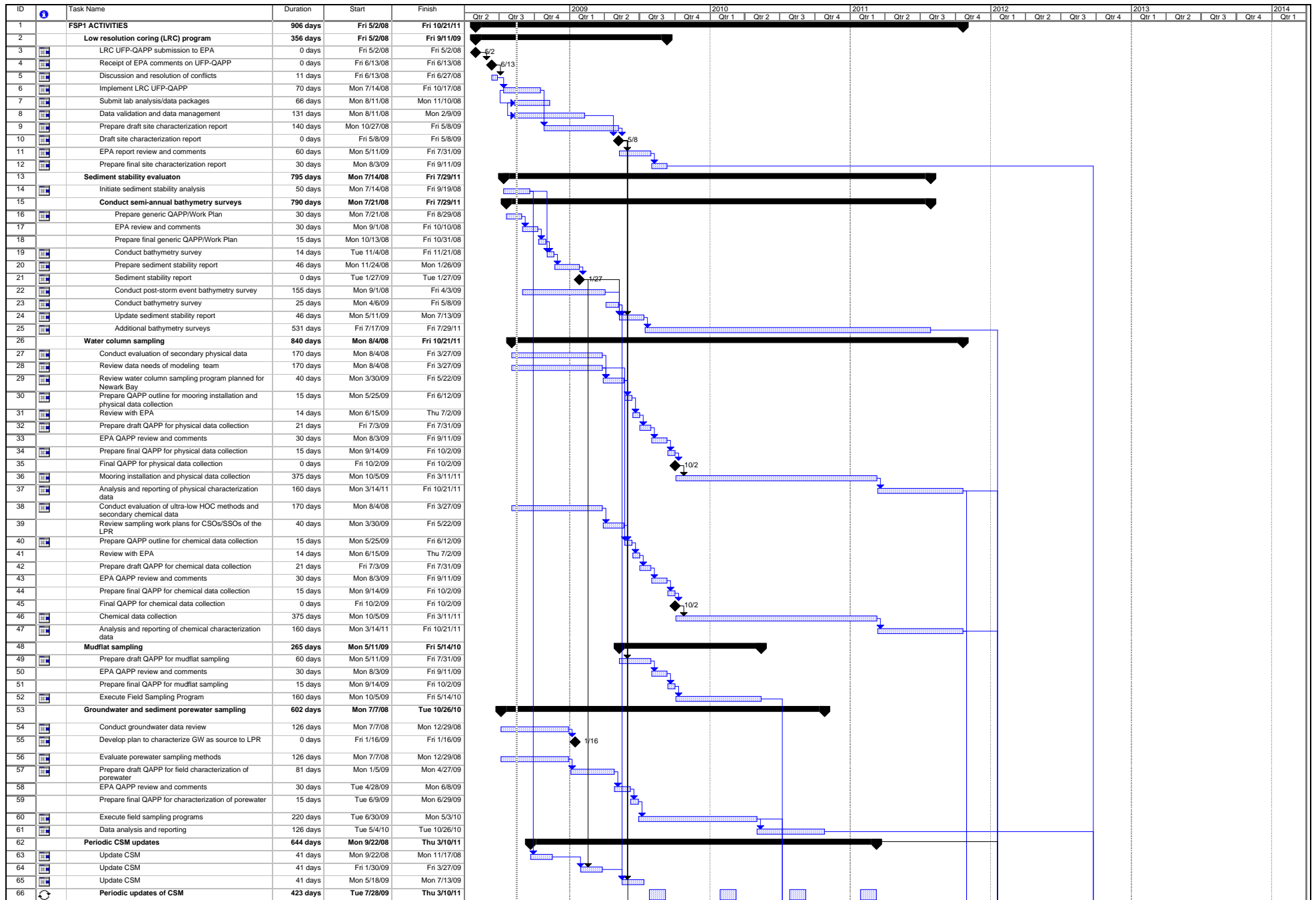
**de maximis, inc.**



Willard F. Potter  
Project Coordinator

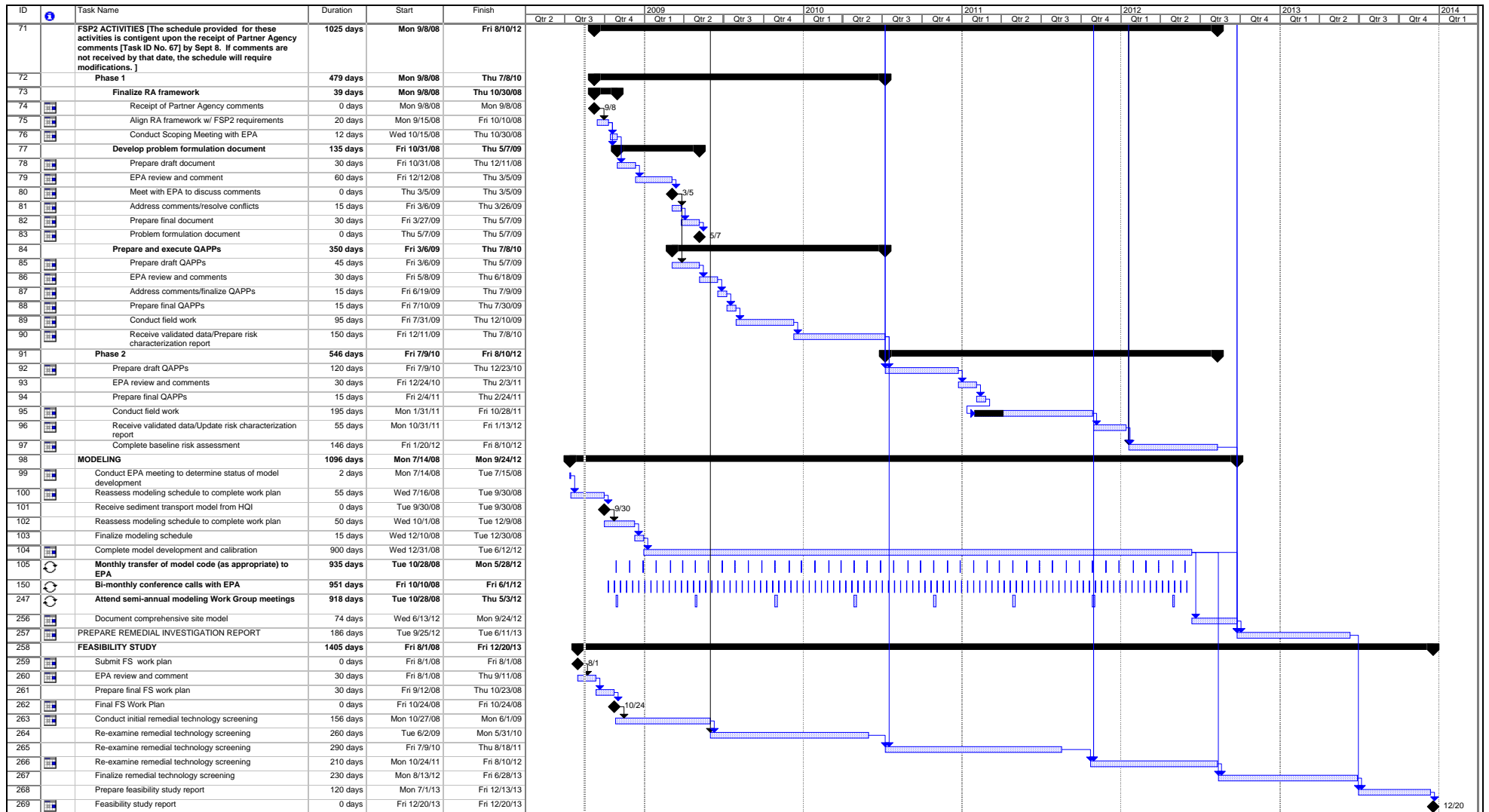
Attachment: Updated RI/FS Program Schedule

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel  
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel  
Lisa Baron, USACE  
Tim Kubiak, USFWS  
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA  
Janine MacGregor, NJDEP  
Elkins Green, NJDOT  
Dave Nakles, ENSR







Overall LRRP Project Schedule  
(May 9, 2008 through Dec 31, 2013)  
Date: August 15, 2008

Task Progress Summary External Tasks Deadline   
Split Milestone Project Summary External Milestone



Overall LPRRP Project Schedule  
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Date: August 15, 2008

Task  Progress  Summary  External Tasks  Deadline   
Split  Milestone  Project Summary  External Milestone 